

I want to note a special problem with one potential loser under the bill. It shifts some funds that are currently allocated to Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico is not represented in this body. Without an advocate of its own to force attention to the Commonwealth's concerns, it is important that we all carefully consider the impact legislation can have upon Puerto Rico and its residents. When we address universal service, we should not take steps that might inadvertently reduce the availability and affordability of telephone and telecommunications services to the residents of Puerto Rico.

In conclusion, I want to again thank the Commerce Committee for focusing greater attention on the future of universal service. I look forward to working with Senators on the committee and others concerned about universal service for rural residents, low-income consumers and our schools and libraries to lay the groundwork for legislation to reform and strengthen the universal service system.

HEALTHY FORESTS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, last week, we passed an amended version of H.R. 1904, the Healthy Forests Act.

While this bill is not everything I hoped it would be, it is an improvement over what was proposed by the President and passed by the House. The devastating fires in California and throughout the West over the past few years have added great urgency to the need to remove dangerous fuel loads from many of our forests. We need to treat those hazards now, and this bill is really the only relevant legislation that can pass Congress and be signed into law by the President this year. That is why I voted for the bill on final passage.

During the floor debate, I offered an amendment to strengthen the underlying bill's old-growth protections and I also voted for a number of other amendments. It is unfortunate that these amendments were not accepted because they would have reassured a greater portion of our citizens of the real intent of the legislation and would have made it more effective.

We don't have the funding we need to remove all the dangerous fuel loads in our forests. We should have made more funding available and ensured more resources were focused on the wildland urban interface that presents the greatest risk to property and to the lives of our firefighters and citizens.

While the underlying bill will increase authorization levels for fuel reduction activities, it does not guarantee this money will be made available. We should have passed Senator BINGAMAN's amendment that would have guaranteed the funding and stopped the raiding of fuel reduction accounts to pay for fire suppression.

Likewise, the Senate bill is an improvement over the House legislation in directing at least 50 percent of the

work be conducted in the wildland urban interface, but we should have strengthened this directive by passing Senator BOXER's amendment that would have raised wildland/urban interface work to 70 percent.

Lastly, the underlying bill made an earnest attempt to provide some protection for old-growth stands in our national forests. Unfortunately, the bill leaves a couple of significant loopholes that, if abused by our forest managers, could threaten these ancient trees. That is why I offered an amendment to close these loopholes and better protect old-growth stands. Unfortunately, my amendment was defeated.

Now that the Senate has spoken on the overall bill, the House should take up this legislation and pass it unaltered. The President should drop his opposition to the increased spending associated in the bill and urge its quick passage by the House. The President's opposition to increased spending presents a real and tangible risk to every community looking to treat forests surrounding their homes, schools, and businesses.

If this bill is signed into law, the burden will shift to the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to implement the programs in the most responsible and effective manner possible.

Again, they will need to focus on protecting communities. It will be unacceptable to treat forest stands far from human population while any community's wildland/urban interface remains untreated.

They need to focus on taking out of the forests the materials that truly threaten to generate catastrophic wildfires. We should not see large, fire resistant trees being removed from our forests under the guise of "healthy forests." Any old-growth stands that are treated need to be treated in ways that protect their unique ecosystems.

Finally, in a fiscally responsible manner, the agencies need to maximize the positive economic influence these fuel reduction projects can have on our rural economies. This means not only hiring local workers and companies to conduct the work, but also looking for opportunities to use the resulting material for other economic enterprises.

The bill passed by the Senate has the potential to truly work in a manner nearly everyone can accept. Alteration by the House or poor implementation by the agencies will only threaten our wildfire endangered communities.

I am committed to making this legislation work and stand ready to assist the communities in Washington State protect their families and homes.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. On May 1, 2003, Senator KENNEDY and I introduced the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, a bill that would add new cat-

egories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

On July 7 of last year, three gay friends were violently beaten by a 21-year-old man in Tampa, FL. The man later pled guilty to charges of aggravated battery and battery with evidence of prejudice. The victims were approached in a parking garage shortly after leaving a party at the Florida Aquarium, one event in a 6-day gay pride celebration. Sadly, one of the victims had to visit the dentist more than twenty times to replace teeth lost in the beating.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to speak as we have just concluded Breast Cancer Awareness Month. During October, about 16,000 more women heard the news all women dread, "You have breast cancer." That is over 190,000 women this year. Among women between 35 and 54 years of age, no disease claims more lives. In more personal terms, an American woman faces a one in nine chance of sitting down and hearing those words from her physician. At that moment everything changes.

We can be thankful that more women are surviving this diagnosis. Modern treatments and early detection are saving lives. Many of my colleagues have joined with me in supporting research into better diagnosis and treatment. Just last month, we learned of a new drug treatment which substantially reduced the recurrence of breast cancer. We have made great strides, and I am grateful to the many researchers who fight long hours battling this disease. And we sometimes forget the men and women who, while suffering the effects of breast cancer, have volunteered in these studies, at a time when they are already going through such a struggle. We owe all of them our gratitude for the strides we have made in fighting this disease.

Despite this progress, one in every five women diagnosed still will not survive breast cancer. Modern treatments are useless without a diagnosis. With early detection and treatment, death and injury can be so greatly reduced. I call on American women today to take the initiative. Many women have been taught to do self-exams, and while they can help, they are no substitute for a mammogram. I urge you now to ask your physician about a mammogram. Mammograms saves lives.

But maybe you have put it off: you can't miss work, or the kids have an

event, or maybe, well, the previous mammograms were OK, so you think you are probably fine. Instead, think of missing other things, such as your child's graduation, those anniversaries with your spouse, or doing any of the things we too often take for granted, just due to making the visit a bit too late.

When a woman receives bad news she is facing so many worries—the threat to her life. She first asks, Will I survive this? Then she asks how she will survive. What will they do to me? The fortunate woman has her loved ones, her family, her friends to stand by and support her. But she needs more.

When the news is bad, we can make the battle easier. I have recently reintroduced legislation to ensure that. The Women's Health and Cancer Rights Act of 2003, S. 1730, will provide the assurances women need.

No woman with breast cancer should be subjected to substandard care. A woman should be confident in her diagnosis and every cancer patient deserves a second opinion. S. 1730 ensures that. Every woman should be offered treatment options, including inpatient care. Every woman should have adequate time to recover. It is time to recognize that the best judgment comes from the expert physician working with the patient. The last question a woman should have to worry about when facing breast cancer is whether or not her health insurance plan will pay for appropriate care after a mastectomy of lumpectomy, or that she won't be able to remain in her doctor's immediate care for as long as she needs to be.

The evidence for the need for this bill, especially when it comes to so-called "drive through mastectomies," is more than just allegorical. Indeed, the facts speak for themselves. Between 1986 and 1995, the average length of stay for a mastectomy dropped from about 6 days to about 2 to 3 days.

Many of my colleagues have joined with me in working for better screening, research, and improved treatment. This issue of treatment and ensuring standards of care have been introduced and discussed. We have had hearings back in the 105th Congress. And in the intervening years, well over a million more women faced those words, "You have breast cancer". Women, and their loved ones, deserve more.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill and work towards passing it this year.

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.

• Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. President, I rise to acknowledge October as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. This gives us an opportunity to remember the millions of victims and their families affected by breast cancer. More than 6,000 individuals in North Carolina are diagnosed each year with breast cancer, and 1,100 of them die as a result. Across the country, one in nine women will be diagnosed with

breast cancer during their lifetime. This is a tragedy, and we must do more to treat it and find a cure.

As Breast Cancer Awareness Month comes to a close, I want to share the story of an extraordinary family in Goldsboro, who has been impacted by this disease in the most devastating and tragic sense. Willie and Mittie Darden, are the parents of 15 children. When Mr. Darden passed away in 1976, Mrs. Darden, known to her friends and family as Mit, became the head of the Darden family. As you can imagine, family gatherings at her home are always large, loving, and filled with joy.

Mit has always been a woman of the deepest faith. Being a life-long member of Darden Chapel Free Will Baptist Church, her faith was the underpinning of the strength she needed to endure the loss of two children to childhood illness. No doubt the pain was tremendous. Years later this pillar of strength for her family and community would endure the harshest of fates as she would lose four daughters to breast cancer. They were Hattie Williams, Louise Darden, Bertha Bennett, and Ann Bryant.

Hattie Williams was the mother of one daughter and had four grandchildren. She spent 20 years in the Wayne County School System as a Head Start teacher, later becoming the owner and operator of her own day care center. On her 50th birthday, March 24, 1993, Mrs. Williams invited her family to visit her. Her family recounts that she spent the evening walking the halls with them as she sang and gave thanks to God for her life and her family. Two days later at dawn she passed away.

Louise Darden, nicknamed Lou Lou, was the mother of four children and a grandmother of four. She, too, was a Head Start teacher. Ms. Darden was also an avid cook and was responsible for designing the t-shirts for the family reunions. As her illness worsened, it was she who gave strength and comfort to her family. She truly felt we are spiritual beings going through a human experience. She transitioned this life on March 2, 1998.

Bertha Bennett is remembered as the life of the party to her family. She spent most of her adult life in Washington, D.C., where she was a mother of three children and a grandmother of nine. Family members say that the teachings of her parents, rooted in the church, are what caused her to overcome alcohol dependency and become a devout Jehovah Witness. Mrs. Bennett, called Bert by her family, served as a source of inspiration to her family and countless friends. Her family was visiting her here in Washington at a hospice when word was sent to them that Ann was being moved to a hospice in Goldsboro as she, too, was fighting breast cancer. By the time the family returned home to North Carolina, they learned Bert had died. It was May 12, 2000.

Ann Bryant had taken over the duties as family secretary and organizer

after the death of her sister Hattie in 1993. The mother of five children and six grandchildren, Ann spent her adult life caring for others as a home hospice care nurse. When eastern North Carolina was hit by catastrophic floods, Ann spent considerable time making sure her family and friends had adequate housing. Her family says that her concern for others was so great that she was working on that project until the breast cancer had claimed her, 2 days after her sister Bert had passed away. It was May 14, 2000, Mother's Day.

On Mother's Day 2000, Mittie Coley Darden was a mother grieving yet again over the loss of not one but two more daughters to breast cancer. All of these women were wives, mothers, grandmothers, and friends. Words could not describe her anguish. Her faith sustained her though. She is the rock upon which others drew strength. It is in her tragedy that others in her church and community have become more aware of the importance of organizations like the Susan G. Komen Foundation, where early detection and awareness programs are stressed. It is the story of her daughters that motivates others to participate in events like the Race for the Cure and to give of their resources to this cause.

Many of those who learn of Mit Darden's daughters are touched by the immense loss but are moved to action. I, too, am deeply touched and inspired. Very recently another of Mrs. Darden's daughter's was diagnosed with breast cancer. It was discovered very early through one of her regular screenings. Her doctors say that it was discovered in time and she has already started treatment. Through it all Mit Darden is ever faithful and prays that others will never have to endure what she has. She only wants to share what we all hope and pray for—a cure.

I am proud to have led several efforts in Congress with ways to help reach that goal and help women who are diagnosed. The bipartisan Patient Protection Act that passed the Senate last year allows women to choose an OB/GYN as a primary care physician. The bill also requires health insurers to cover hospital stays for breast cancer treatment procedures. In the 106th Congress, I joined many of my colleagues in cosponsoring and passing legislation that gives Federal matching Medicaid dollars to provide breast and cervical cancer-related treatment. This law was an important step in ensuring that individuals suffering from breast cancer have access to modern treatment and technology regardless of their income level.

On behalf of Mit Darden and her daughters, and all the women and their friends and families affected by breast cancer, we must continue the fight against this disease with compassion and action. I urge my colleagues to join me.●

HEALTHY FORESTS RESTORATION ACT

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, last Thursday the Senate passed H.R. 1904, the Healthy Forests Restoration Act. I voted for the bill because I believe we need to take action to bring our forests back to good health, and there are some good provisions in the Senate-passed version of the bill. For example, the Senate version allows communities to provide recommendations on reducing the threat of unnaturally intense catastrophic wildfire in community wildfire protection plans.

In addition, two amendments that I offered were adopted by the Senate. The first amendment requires collaborative monitoring of the social and ecological effects of projects. Without this requirement, we will never be able to rebuild trust between rural communities and the agencies. The second amendment encourages the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to hire local contractors for forest thinning projects in order to create jobs in forest-dependent communities.

Even so, I continue to believe there are serious problems with this legislation. Most significantly, the bill fails to tackle the main obstacle constraining the Forest Service from improving forest health which is the agency's harmful policy of borrowing from proactive forest restoration accounts to pay for firefighting. Some of the other major issues raised by the Senate language include a lack of any new funding to reduce hazardous fuels; curtailing public participation in the management of public lands, including the establishment of a new so-called "pre-decisional" review process; and lack of protection for National Monuments, roadless areas and other environmentally sensitive areas.

I tried to fix these problems by offering and cosponsoring amendments, including one to give the Forest Service new authority to borrow funds directly from the Treasury when firefighting costs exceed available funds. Unfortunately, this amendment did not prevail. However, Senator BURNS, Senator NICKLES, and others offered to work with me to seek solutions to the "fire borrowing" problem. I accept their gracious offer and look forward to addressing this issue in the future with their cooperation and assistance.

Other amendments that were offered by myself and others to improve the bill were defeated. Nonetheless, I voted for final passage of H.R. 1904 because the Senate version was an improvement as compared to the one passed by the House earlier this year.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

WATER MISSIONS' HONDURAS WATER SUPPLY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. Mr. President I rise to ask the bill's man-

ager, Senator MCCONNELL, about a provision in the Fiscal Year 2004 foreign operations bill of particular importance to me. This appropriations bill provides \$100 million for water conservation, \$1.5 million of which the committee report sets aside for Water Missions International for its safe water supply and wastewater treatment projects for several regional hospitals in Honduras. Water Missions is a faith-based South Carolina organization that delivers potable water engineering systems to towns and villages in developing countries around the world. I ask Senator MCCONNELL if he is familiar with Water Missions International and this important demonstration project.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Yes, I am familiar with Water Missions International and its work to provide water to communities in developing countries. I am particularly familiar with their current water project in a regional hospital in Honduras. I recently met with Water Missions' founders, George and Molly Greene, to discuss this important project and was impressed by Water Missions International's use of low-cost, appropriate technology for improving drinking water supplies.

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. If I may raise one more issue, I am concerned that United States Agency for International Development, USAID, has at times not followed report recommendations made by the Senate and House Appropriations Committees. Is it the manager's intention that USAID follow the recommendation in the report?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Absolutely. I strongly support the report language that was included in Omnibus Appropriations Bill earlier this year, saying that "the managers expect the Department of State and USAID to follow the recommendations in the House and Senate reports, unless those recommendations are modified in the statement of the managers." I am pleased that senior USAID officials recently met with Water Missions to begin the partnership process in implementing this particular recommendation.

Mr. GRAHAM of South Carolina. I thank Senator MCCONNELL for his support of Water Missions and its inclusion as an USAID project.

AMENDMENTS TO VARIOUS REGULATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I would like to give notice to Members and staff of the Senate that the Committee on Rules and Administration has approved amendments to six committee regulations. Pursuant to Title V of the Rules of Procedure for the Committee on Rules and Administration, and having provided advance notice of our intention to approve the following amendments to the regulations attached hereto, we hereby approve said

amendments effective November 1, 2003, except for amendments to the regulations governing furniture, accessories and special allowances policy which shall be effective January 3, 2005.

I. The following regulations are approved as amended:

A. Committee Regulations Governing the Payment of Funeral Expenses of Deceased Members, as amended, by adding, deleting and substituting as follows:

Delete the last sentence in the first paragraph and substitute—"Such arrangements may include ordinary and necessary expenses for the following:"

Add the following after item 4—"floral expenses themselves are personal in nature and are not considered an official expense, with the exception of one floral arrangement from the United States Senate);"

Delete the word "Service" and substitute the word "Reasonable" at the beginning of item 6, and insert the words "use of a" after the word "for" and before the word "church". Also insert the word "other" after the word "or" and before the word "place".

Substitute "\$5,000" for "\$2,000" for casket expense in item 9.

Substitute "\$2,000" for "\$1,000" for burial plot in item 10.

Add the following as item 11—"Miscellaneous expenses directly related to the funeral (e.g., fee for minister and musician) and not personal in nature (e.g., food, flowers, cards), not to exceed \$2,500 in the aggregate."

Add the following as item 12—"Any request for exceptions to this list must be made to the Sergeant at Arms, and approved by the Committee on Rules and Administration."

A copy of the Committee Regulations governing funeral expenses for deceased Members, as amended, is included as Attachment A. These amended regulations shall be effective as of November 1, 2003.

B. Committee Regulations Governing Advance Payment, as amended, by adding new sections (l) and (m) as follows:

"(l) Metro subsidy, one week in advance of the new month"

"(m) Pre-paid cellular and telephone communications"

A copy of the Committee Regulations governing advance payment, as amended, is included as Attachment B. These amended regulations shall be effective as of November 1, 2003.

C. Committee Regulations Governing Furniture, Accessories and Special Allowances Policy for Senate Office Buildings, as amended, by substituting as follows:

Substitute "\$5,000" for "\$2,500" under Operational Policy for Senators' Special Furniture and Accessory Allowance.

A copy of the Committee Regulations governing furniture, accessories and special allowances policy, as amended, is included as Attachment C. These amended regulations shall be effective as of January 3, 2005.

D. Committee Regulations Governing Payments and Reimbursements From